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## NagaCorp | Asia Pacific

# 1Q22 EBITDA Beats; More Visible Recovery from 2Q22

Industry ViewIn-Line

Price Target
HK\$8.50

1Q EBITDA beat was positive and we see upside risk to earnings if the recovery becomes more pronounced from 2Q22.

1Q22 EBITDA was +83%QoQ to US\$61m (50% of 1Q19). Margin increased to >50% from the normal 38% level due to a faster recovery in Mass & Slot revenue (+36%QoQ, 74% of 1Q19). We estimate FCFE (excl. Development Capex) was US\$45m (33% of 2019).

- **EBITDA** beats **MSe** and **Consensus**: 1Q22 x 2 EBITDA of US\$120m was better than consensus 1H22 EBITDA of US\$107m. Business recovery could be more pronounced from 2Q22, as more ASEAN countries (e.g. Malaysia, Singapore) opened their borders from April.
- Annualized 1Q22 Mass & Slot revenue was US\$307m. This is already 92% of MS 2022e at US\$334m.
- Further opex reduction: -14%QoQ to US\$280K per day (70% of 2019 level). Yet, this could pick up as business volume recovers more.
- Premium Mass revenue (more similar to Direct VIP in Macau) was 160% of 2019. It is now 20% of total Net Gaming Revenue vs. only 4% in 2019. Gross profit margin is 61%.
- **Referral VIP** remained muted at 1% of 2019 level but could be better in 2Q22 as travel reopening intensifies.
- Net debt decreased 14%QoQ to US\$360m. Cash was up US\$60m QoQ to US\$163m. This suggests Naga likely did not spend much on Phase 3 in 1Q.
   Cash could also be helped by working capital changes (e.g. current liabilities). Planned capex for 2022 is US\$100m.
- Valuation: The stock trades at 9x EV/EBITDA and 11% FCFE yield on our 2023e, which is reasonable, in our view, considering its recovery prospects in the near term.
- Others: This is the first time Naga reported quarterly EBITDA.

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#### NagaCorp ( 3918.HK, 3918 HK )

#### ASEAN Gaming / Hong Kong

Stock Rating Industry View	Overweight In-Line
Price target	HK\$8.50
Shr price, close (Apr 1, 2022)	HK\$7.07
52-Week Range	HK\$9.60-5.15
Up/downside to price target (%)	20
Sh out, dil, curr (mn)	4,341
Mkt cap, curr (mn)	US\$3,918
Avg daily trading value (mn)	HK\$23

Fiscal Year Ending	12/21	12/22e	12/23e	12/24e
ModelWare EPS (US\$)	(0.03)	0.04	0.08	0.11
Prior ModelWare EPS (US\$)	-	-	-	-
EPS (US\$)§	(0.01)	0.03	0.08	0.09
Revenue, net (US\$ mn)	226	864	1,464	1,688
EBITDA (US\$ mn)	10	300	489	617
ModelWare net inc (US\$ mn)	(147)	153	337	478
Curr P/E, for consensus	NM	25.6	11.6	8.2
P/BV	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.4
RNOA (%)	(4.7)	6.6	12.1	14.5
ROE (%)	(8.9)	9.3	17.2	20.2
EV/EBITDA**	427.8	14.6	8.8	6.9
Div yld (%)	0.0	2.3	5.2	7.3

Unless otherwise noted, all metrics are based on Morgan Stanley ModelWare

§ = Consensus data is provided by Refinitiv Estimates
\*\* = Based on consensus methodology

e = Morgan Stanley Research estimates

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# 1Q22 Results Summary

Exhibit 1: Naga Quarterly Gaming Revenues and EBITDA - MSE vs. Actuals

US\$ mn	1Q19	1Q20	4Q21	1Q22A	QoQ%
Gaming operations					
GGR	320	368	86	110	28%
- % to 2019			20%	30%	
VIP revenue	217	270	30	33	12%
- % to 2019		125%	10%	12%	
VIP roll	8,187	9,693	807	856	6%
- % to 2019		118%	6%	10%	
Mass revenue	69	68	35	52	48%
- % to 2019		99%	41%	76%	
EGM revenue	35	30	22	25	17%
- % to 2019		85%	53%	85%	
Costs					
Opex per day (excl. Chen bonus)	(0.37)	(0.36)	(0.33)	(0.28)	(17%)
VIP Rebates	(145)	(136)	(9)	(13)	42%
EBITDA					
EBITDA (excl. one-off)	122	136	33	61	83%
EBITDA Margin (Gross)	38.0%	36.4%	37.8%	54.4%	

1Q22E	A vs. E
95	16%
26%	
35	(5%)
13%	(5%)
1,291	(34%)
16%	(34%)
38	34%
57%	34%
22	15%
74%	15%
(0.39)	(29%)
(16.14)	(20%)
32	88%
33.4%	63%

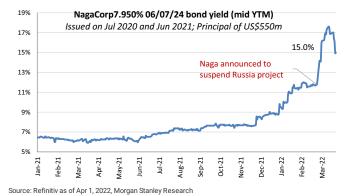
Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research estimates

Exhibit 2: Naga Avg. Daily Gaming Revenues by segments: Faster-than-expected recovery in Mass & Slot segment

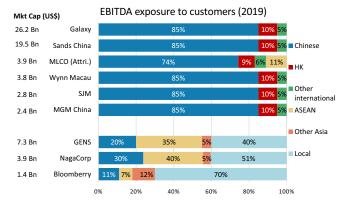
Average Daily Net Gaming Revenue					
(in US'000)	1Q19	4Q21	1Q22A	QoQ%	% to 2019
Total Net Gaming Revenue	3,556	808	1,078	33%	30%
Mass Table	763	375	573	53%	75%
EGM	387	243	280	15%	72%
Premium Mass	132	182	212	16%	160%
Referral VIP	2,274	8	13	63%	1%

Source: Company data, Morgan Stanley Research

Exhibit 3: Naga Bond Yield Improved



**Exhibit 4:** Asia Gaming Operators' 2019 EBITDA Exposure to different customer nationalities



Source: Refinitiv as of Apr 1, 2022, Morgan Stanley Research





## Valuation Methodology and Risks

#### NagaCorp (3918.HK)

HK\$8.5: base case scenario value. We apply a target FCFE yield of 8.0% to our 2023 estimate with a 10% discount for time value. The target yield is higher than Macau peers' average of 7.0%, but lower than the company's historical average of 12% since 2018 in view of the company's monopoly status in a fast-growing market, and attractive margin and tax profile.

### Risks to Upside

- Faster-than-expected ASEAN travel reopening
- Continued growth in domestic demand observed in 2H2O and 2M21
- Deeper-than-expected Direct VIP demand, leading to smaller/no cannibalization between Direct VIP and local junket VIP
- Flexibility in Naga3 budget in response to changing market demand

#### Risks to Downside

- Travel disruption affects reopening in ASEAN and Cambodia
- Severe regional competition for ASEAN customers



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	COVERAGE U	NIVERSE	INVESTMEN	IT BANKING CLI	ENTS (IBC)	OTHER MAINVESTMENT CLIENTS (	SERVICES
STOCK RATING	COUNT	% OF	COUNT	% OF	% OF	COUNT	% OF
CATEGORY		TOTAL		TOTAL IBC	RATING		TOTAL
					CATEGORY		OTHER
							MISC
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Equal-weight/Hold	1539	44%	365	45%	24%	712	46%
Not-Rated/Hold	0	0%	0	0%	0%	0	0%
Underweight/Sell	552	16%	87	11%	16%	207	13%
TOTAL	3,529		818			1549	

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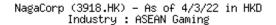
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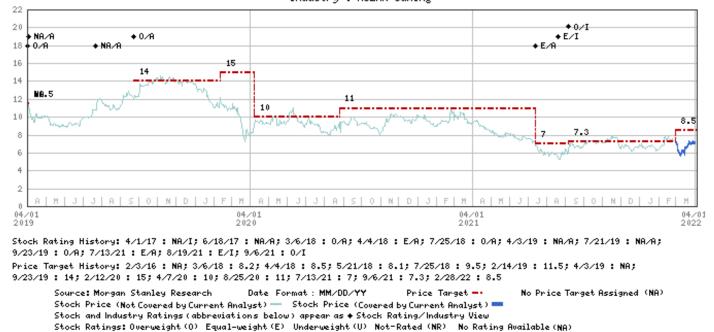
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In-line (I) Cautious (C)

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Praveen K Choudhary		
Bloomberry Resorts Corporation (BLOOMPS) Genting Singapore PLC (GENS.SI)	O (03/26/2018) E (02/23/2022)	PP6.50 S\$0.82

Stock Ratings are subject to change. Please see latest research for each company.

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<sup>\*</sup> Historical prices are not split adjusted.